

**WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
JANUARY 20, 1998**

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**PRESENT:** Ansari, Bambrick (for Duffy), Boroznoff, Ciliberti, Coomes, DeBartolo, DeLaura, DeYoung, Dye, Edelstein, Ferris, D. Garcia, Ghosh, Goldstein, Hirstein, Joslin, Kalish, Kim, Kim-Yoon, Mason, McCallum, Miller, Murphy, Mwaura, Nack, Ndjatou, Oratio, Overdorf, Pope, Risley, Sebetich, Sesay, Swanson, Vardiman, Wagner, Weidenaar, Wolf

**ABSENT:** extenuating conditions (i.e.) substitute secretary and first meeting of the semester result in a one-time amnesty of absence

**GUESTS:** Agard-Jones, Daniel, Evangelista, Gaboury, Martinez, Norville, Wharman

**PRELIMINARIES:** Chairperson S. DeYoung called the meeting to order at 12:40 P.M. The agenda was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously as were the minutes of the December 16, 1997 meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Provost Sesay commended the work done with regards to the drafting of a University Mission Statement and suggested that the committee formed for that purpose, chaired by S. DeYoung, reconvene to draft a Vision Statement. The draft should be ready for Senate consideration and action prior to that of the Board of Directors in April/May. The provost complimented the efforts of the Mission Statement Committee: DeYoung, Edelstein, Dye, Fountoukidis, Radford and Small. Edelstein spoke in approval of the Provost's leadership in establishing this committee. The motion to have the Mission Statement Committee continue as the Vision Statement Committee (moved and seconded by Wolf and Goldstein) was passed unanimously.

**REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM:** M. Hahn, Director of the University Honors Program, distilled a semester's worth into a handout distributed to the Senators and guests present. Hahn reviewed the work of the Campus-Wide Honors Program Committee and affirmed the purpose of the Honors Program: enhancement of academic excellence, to challenge motivated and talented students, and to provide unique opportunities for students. Hahn outlined how the Honors Program will function via Aadd-ons@ to existing majors: providing Aperformance oriented@ courses/opportunities that will allow the demonstration of advanced talent or scholarship. A major consideration in programmatic development was to avoid choosing generic approaches that would only satisfy the Alowest common denominator@. All programs must be subject to a review process. Vardiman inquired about the selection of students for the Honors Programs. Hahn replied that no clear Astudent profile@ existed, as

the intent was to make the program accessible to as many and as diverse a population as possible. McCallum voiced concern that the added commitment on the part of a student to an honors program might delay graduation. Hahn replied that efforts would be made to embed honors work within a normal curriculum, but that some ambitious students may elect to take an extra year to do the additional work. McCallum asked how the program would be sustained or protected against low enrollment. Hahn encouraged centralized promotion and recruitment to the program rather than a college/school/or department B level effort. Ghosh congratulated the Honors Committee and suggested the NYU model that offers international study opportunities during breaks. Ghosh's concern that only five new honors tracks were planned was answered by Hahn to the effect that these five were the best-developed and most viable, and encouraged continual re-application of programs to the Honors Committee. Hahn will distribute the committee's selection criteria to the university to further guide future applications. Nack reflected on racial integration issues involved in honors programs, a trend towards the distillation of the best students out of the general community. Hahn emphasized that individual departments will retain ability to suggest and adopt honors program policies that will focus on wide inclusion of all constituencies. Special emphasis should be on creating a positive attitude towards honors work rather than ostracizing those in honors programs. Hahn mentioned that an attitudinal survey would be performed in Fall 98 to measure the value students place on honors initiatives. Ndjatou asked how the program would deal with underenrollment. Hahn said that minimum enrollment would be five students per class. Dye moved that the report be accepted without comment, Boroznoff seconded, and vote was unanimous. Chairperson DeYoung warmly thanked Hahn and the efforts of the Honors Program Committee.

**BYLAWS REVISIONS:** Murphy moved and Boroznoff seconded to move to Committee of the Whole for discussion. After unanimous vote, this was done. Murphy spoke about the revisions, summarizing that the changes were primarily focused on improving the document's readability. Suggested changes to the bylaws were indicated by italic type. Nack requested a point of information: how were deletions denoted? Murphy replied that the revised draft needs to be compared to the existing bylaws document to see deletions. McCallum initiated a prolonged conversation regarding the need for pollwatching. Wolf spoke for the need for faculty commitment to the existing process. McCallum pointed out the time considerations of pollwatching and that faculty's efforts might be better spent. Extended discussion ensued. Dye focused on policies concerning recall votes: previous vote tallies to be placed in minutes of election committee reports. Edelstein suggested that a set number of signatures on a recall petition would be desirable. Extended discussion continued on individual nuances and wording of the bylaws draft. A revised and updated version will be prepared for the next Senate meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at 1:55 P.M.. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3 in SCIENCE 319.

Respectfully submitted:

Kurt W. Wagner (for Bill Duffy, Secretary)